

CACOECIMORPHA PRONUBANA HBN. (LEP.: TORTRICIDAE): LARVAL FOODPLANTS INCLUDING DAMAGE TO SKIMMIA JAPONICA THUNB. — At Dartford, Kent, on May 15, 1981, I noticed that two *Skimmia* bushes had many of their terminal shoots containing the female flowers damaged, thus preventing being formed the full complement of red berries, one of the main aesthetic attributes of the plant. The cause of the damage was found to be Tortricid larvae, and collected larvae and pupae later produced imagines of *C. pronubana*.

Search was made of other *Skimmia* bushes in the neighbourhood, and of a total of eleven, eight were found to display similar damage. Other plant species were examined for presence of *C. pronubana* larvae, especially those recorded as commonly favoured by this insect, e.g. *Euonymus japonica*, *Cupressus*, lavender and bay, but larvae were located on only three plant species other than *Skimmia* — ivy (*Hedera helix*) commonly, from which collected larvae produced rather more *C. pronubana* than the expected *Lozotaenia forsterana* Fab., and appeared widespread in contrast to the latter species: *Sedum spectabile*, one location containing several plants where almost every terminal shoot was damaged; and several bushes of small-leaved evergreen *Hebe*, the popular New Zealand shrub of which a multitude of varieties abound, although the commoner large-leaved kinds were untouched.

Many bushes of *Euonymus japonica* in this district were examined, but appeared quite free from lepidopterous larvae, although about this time I noticed that at Ilford, Essex, *C. pronubana* larvae were abundant in the terminal shoots of this shrub.

Second brood larvae in July appeared less common, although the moths from these were as usual more in evidence here flying by day than those of the first generation. Larvae were again found on the same *Skimmia* bushes, but their presence was less evident as they were on older foliage positioned lower down the stems; the same *Sedum* plants were affected, mainly older leaves nearer the base being attacked, although larvae were also within the flower panicles. Second brood larvae were also found on *Hebe* and ivy.

*C. pronubana* has been described as polyphagous, and certainly a vast range of larval foodplants has been recorded, although I cannot find previous reference to *Skimmia japonica*. However the above observations indicate that distinct preference is shown, and that this may vary locally. — B. K. WEST, 36 Briar Road, Bexley, Kent.

ARTIFICIAL TRANSPORTATION OF A NYMPHALID, CYNTHIA VIRGINIENSIS (DRURY). — On 3 July 1981 I was motoring northward through Union and Lycoming counties in central Pennsylvania, U.S.A., in the company of Ellen B. Wells of the Smithsonian Institution. Our automobile was a new Datsun with a highly polished finish. As we re-entered the car after a halt, a very common nymphalid, *C. virginensis* (a close relative of the cosmopolitan *cardui*) descended upon the bonnet at a point a few inches forward from the base of the windscreen, and rested with its axis at 90° to that of the car. I expected that the butterfly would quickly leave us as we began to accelerate, but it did not. Its wings were gradually